

THE MAUI NEWS

Entered at the Post Office at Walluku, Maui, Hawaii, as second-class matter.

A Republican Paper Published in the Interest of the People
Issued Every Friday.

MAUI PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED,
Proprietors and Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, \$2.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

WILL J. COOPER, : : : EDITOR AND MANAGER

FRIDAY : : : JUNE 9, 1916

EXPLOITING THE PORTUGUESE

O. A. Steven's colonization enterprise among the Portuguese of this Territory, turns out to have been nothing but a labor recruiting scheme in disguise. The warning given by the Maui News at the time, which was taken up by the California State Commission on Immigration and Housing, and thoroughly investigated, has resulted in a number of striking facts being brought out. First, the 10-acre tracts of California land, which were to make the oppressed Portuguese of Hawaii independent, are declared to be of very poor soil. Second, the price of \$100 per acre (Steven seems to have boosted the price to \$125) is too much. It could not be made to earn the \$6 interest and \$3 water rent, the University of California expert says. Third, the men who own the land did not expect the Portuguese to be able to make a living from their "homesteads," but expected to use the men and boys as laborers on the other work, while the women and children might be able to help out with a little gardening. Fourth, while the land was supposed to have water for irrigation, only a portion of it might use such water on account of the lay of the land, and the water supply cannot be depended upon after June in any event. Finally, Steven's interest seems to have been solely that of a labor agent. He is not bothering now about the Portuguese for whom he had so much sympathy and aloha for a few months ago, but has transferred his attention to the Filipinos of the Islands instead. Incidentally he has not returned the \$25 or \$50 which he collected as first payment on the California lands.

An unexplained feature of the affair, is the apparent full endorsement of the Portuguese consul in San Francisco. The impression is very strong among local Portuguese that this official recommended the Steven scheme almost without reservation. It was this attitude of the San Francisco consul, moreover, that caused the local Portuguese consul not to interfere in what he really felt to be a questionable proposition.

As the Maui News stated before there are good lands in California. But unless a man has at least a few thousand dollars to spend for house, and horses and other live stock, and to live upon for a year until he can get some return from the soil, his chance of making a success are not very bright. Most of the men recruited by Steven have no such resources for the simple reason that men with sufficient capital are slow to make radical changes. It is fortunate therefore that the real conditions in connection with the Steven scheme have been learned before many families have gone further than to make their first payments, which is a small loss compared with what they certainly would have sustained had they gone to California.

WANTED—A RENAISSANCE IN HAWAIIAN ART

One of the features of the Maui County Fair on which a good deal of effort is to be expended is the section devoted to Hawaiian arts and crafts. It is to be hoped that the Fair may have some influence in reviving an interest in this class of handiwork. This is particularly true of the art of lauhala weaving. The demand for this work is steadily increasing. A few years ago it was easy to buy lauhala floor mats of almost any size or quality, and in almost any quantity, in the shops of Honolulu. Today they are hard to find, and the price is excessive. The same is true of the artistically woven fans, and to some extent to hats. The younger Hawaiians appear to have little interest in the industry, evidently thinking it something beneath them, and the older natives are fast passing away. To the contrary, however, it should be considered as a valuable heritage, for the product is one that commands a market on its useful qualities, and not merely as an ornament or curiosity. Some of the schools of the territory are wisely encouraging their pupils to perfect in this remunerative accomplishment, but others appear to have taken the attitude that it is something that does not set well with "culture," and are therefore ignoring it in favor of various forms of needlework, which may be all right as dainty accomplishments, but which at best are mighty poor mediums for keeping the poi bowl filled.

Superintendent of Schools Kinney is authority for the statement that there is at the present time but one living kapa maker in the whole territory. She works but a portion of her time, and makes an excellent living. But with her passing will pass also one of the arts of ancient Hawaii, never to be revived again. This is not likely to be so in the case of woven work, which will almost certainly be taken up by other nationalities on account of the profits which it must always afford to the workers. The pity of it is that the native Hawaiians, whose birthright it is, should be willing to sacrifice it for a cheap substitute, just as they are everywhere sacrificing their own inimitably beautiful music for cheap rag-time and coon songs.

THE HYPHEN QUESTION AGAIN

Martin Grune, the Honolulu hyphenated citizen who told the national guard examining board that he would refuse to fight against Germany, should war between the two countries ever occur, is to be commended for his courage. It would have been comparatively easy, and very much less embarrassing to have lied about the matter. Aside from this display of honesty, however, there is not much that can be said for Grune. It is not clear how he ever became an American citizen, but it is perfectly clear now that he should never have become one.

It is this sort of misguided feeling of disloyalty to the land of their adoption, or evidence of conditional allegiance on the part of a few German-American citizens, that has awakened the resentment of real Americans. Is it really asking too much of a man who comes to America of his own free will, and presumably because he finds conditions more to his liking than in the land of his birth, that he be willing to bear his share of burden, of a citizen even to fighting against his native land if necessary? Or rather would it not be the decent thing for the man who finds he cannot do this, to re-affirm his allegiance to his mother country and place himself at the disposal of that land? Our foreign born citizens should not forget that the American nation came into being, and continues to this day, to the fact the American colonists felt it a patriotic duty to fight against their mother country on two separate occasions.

There is a good deal of mush-talk being engaged in just now over Duke Kahanamoku's accepting an offer of \$250 per week on a 3-year vaudeville contract, and thereby becoming a professional swimmer. He would have been a fool to have thought of declining such an offer. Amateur athletics may be all right for rich men, but there isn't much in it for the man who needs the money that his special kind of ability makes it possible for him to earn. A great baseball player isn't any less great when he becomes a professional, nor is any other athlete less great because a certain association refuses to recognize his existence. A world championship title isn't especially satisfactory to the holder if he knows some other man can beat him at his own game.

A private is to be allowed to play in a polo game with officers! Such bally bad form—don't you know!

KAHULUI RAILROAD CO'S Merchandise Department

Pipe
Lumber
Bricks
Valves Fittings
Windows
Doors
Steel Sheets
Lead
Coal
Cement



Telephone No. 1062

Kahului, Maui, T. H.